

Message

From: Smidinger, Betsy [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=08E9600128AD456D9DF9BA1CB816AA8E-BSMIDING]
Sent: 11/16/2020 4:01:16 AM
To: Stavnes, Sandra [Stavnes.Sandra@epa.gov]; Urdiales, Aaron [Urdiales.Aaron@epa.gov]
Subject: Fwd: CAG in north Denver

I'm not sure this was in the other string of emails I forwarded.

Sent from my iPhone

Betsy Smidinger
Director
Superfund and Emergency Management Division
US EPA, Region 8/Denver
303-312-6231 (O)
303-335-7627 (C)

Begin forwarded message:

From: Bridget Walsh **Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)**
Date: November 15, 2020 at 11:04:17 AM EST
To: Jesse/Fran Aguirre **Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)**
Cc: "alex.valdez.house@state.co.us" <alex.valdez.house@state.co.us>, **Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)**
Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)
"jennifer.opila@state.co.us" <jennifer.opila@state.co.us>, "fonda.apostolopoulos@state.co.us" <fonda.apostolopoulos@state.co.us>, "Wharton, Steve" <Wharton.Steve@epa.gov>, "Smidinger, Betsy" <Smidinger.Betsy@epa.gov>, "Wheeler, Andrew" <wheeler.andrew@epa.gov>, "Darling, Corbin" <Darling.Corbin@epa.gov>, "Urdiales, Aaron" <Urdiales.Aaron@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: CAG in north Denver
Reply-To: **Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)**

Thank you Fran for your eloquent, timely and point on letter.

CAG members are looking forward to a much more positive experience with the EPA, Region 8, once changes are in place in DC. Individually, we have begun outreach to the Biden transition team and potential Biden EPA appointees to make them aware of our interest in an adult, professional, productive, substantive working relationship between EPA, Region 8, and the CAG.

Unfortunately, our experience with EPA, Region 8 staff has been anything but. We hope that other CAGs in the US have had better experiences with the EPA and we are working to find out .

For the past year, after the CAG experts asked some penetrating questions pertaining to EPA's proposed delisting of OU1 and a potential violation of the Clean Water Act... they seem to have run to put their heads in the sand to avoid scrutiny.

The CAG has been busy compiling and carefully documenting a permanent record that will remain long after we, and they, are gone.

Unfortunately the attitude and arrogance of some staff at EPA , Region 8, seems to mirror all too well the attitude and approach taken by our departing leadership. In a democracy, the government can not rule by fiat. Distian for the public by bureaucrats is especially annoying and should not be tolerated.

Thanks again Fran. You are a brave champion of the people.

Warmest regards,

"Bridget" Eileen Walsh, Real Estate Broker

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On Sat, Nov 14, 2020 at 6:14 PM Jesse/Fran Aguirre <[Ex. 6 Personal Privacy \(PP\)](#)> wrote:

Hello Alex,

Will you please inform me as to why you have no one from your office attend (even virtually) the CAG meetings for the Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP) Super fund site? Our next virtual zoom meeting is this Tues. at 5:30 PM.

It seems that something is going on behind the scenes to make this CAG disappear. The EPA is responsible for providing a neutral facilitator for the monthly meetings. They have not done so in over one year.

They gave themselves until 2021 to rectify a mistake they made in the 2019 report with regard to informing new property owners that the soil on that property had either not been tested or not remediated.

OU1 is supposedly completed and there are still 50 (more or less) residential properties where soil has not been tested/cleaned up for lead and arsenic. The EPA has not adjusted the ppm's for these toxic materials in over 20 years. There is an unequal standard for them also. 400 ppm of lead is totally unacceptable. That is their standard!

You may also know that the EPA has never required testing of the soil at industrial and business sites.

My understanding for this is that there are no children who might be "eating" soil that contains lead in these areas.

OU2 is another spot that is still in need for being cleaned up.

OU3 has a cadmium plume in it that we do not know the status of.

Is any of this a concern for you and the citizens of North Denver? Is there any reason why only residents of this Super fund site are the people who are required to be represented on the CAG?

You and I know that this is a lower income area and the residents here struggle to make ends meet-- sometimes working 2 or 3 jobs.

Thank you for doing whatever you can to insist that this CAG be treated with respect. We ask that they don't make up stories about the group not wanting a neutral facilitator. We ask that the EPA have a rep at the CAG meetings to keep the group updated on the latest work that is being done. We are told that there is nothing new going on. Is this true?

Fran Aguirre
Administrator of the CAG.
303-477-5928